

## The School of Biblical Law

### Covenant and Law

#### Lesson Thirty-Six: "The Covenant Model and Commandment Nine"

Commandment Nine addresses the reward that one's neighbor is due and forbids anyone from altering the due reward because of a dishonest, lying, or false report. Each person stands before God as to the choices that he or she makes in life and in working out the covenant that God has granted. The decisions made – or the ethics lived out – determine, in part, the reward that is due. That reward might be negative or positive, but no one is allowed the right to alter a neighbor's reward.

Commandments 1-5 (Love God)	Covenant Model	Commandments 6-10 (Love thy neighbor)
No other gods	Transcendence	Do not Kill
No graven images	Hierarchy	Do Not Commit Adultery
Do not take God's Name in vain	Ethics	Do Not Steal
Remember the Sabbath Day	Sanctions	Do Not Bear False Witness
Honor thy Father and Mother	Continuity	

1. Commandment nine forbids false testimony against one's neighbor, and the reward of one's neighbor depends upon a true testimony.

In scripture, judgment and a just reward is not forthcoming without the testimony of two or three witnesses.

Deuteronomy 19:15, "One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity or for any sin, in any sin that he sins, at the mouth of two witnesses or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established." (Deut. 17:6)

Matt. 18:16, "... in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established." (II Cor. 13:1; Heb. 10:28)

John 8:17, "It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true."

2. Commandment nine answers to the fourth section of the covenant model, which is sanctions.

A man's name becomes a synonym for both good and bad performance; therefore commandment nine requires a true testimony and accurate communication about one's neighbor.

- A good name and reputation results from diligence, integrity, craftsmanship, skills.
- A bad name and reputation results from lying, cheating, dishonesty, sluggardly practices.

Name is asset or a personal possession identifying the person and the reputation that he or she has earned.

3. Each person should be allowed to earn the reward for which he or she has labored.

The ethics under which a man has conducted his or her life (covenant section #3) determines the reward which the man is due (covenant section #4).

Reward is meted out on the basis of testimony given.

No one may tamper with or change the reward. The reputation he has earned is the one with which he will live. He must eat the fruit of his choice. To say something about one's neighbor other than to speak an accurate representation of his name is an attempt to change the reward which he is due.